

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - June 13, 2005**

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that United States District Court Judge Jeffrey T. Miller sentenced CESAR GOMEZ-TABOADA today to serve 46 months in custody for transporting illegal aliens, resulting in death. The sentence was imposed pursuant to a plea agreement, through which GOMEZ-TABOADA agreed to plead guilty to Count 2 of an eight-count indictment, which was returned by the federal grand jury on August 25, 2004.

GOMEZ-TABOADA was indicted on charges relating to his transportation of eleven undocumented persons in a Ford Explorer on July 31, 2004. On that date, GOMEZ-TABOADA lost control of the Explorer while driving in East San Diego County, causing the vehicle to roll over, and resulting in the death of Maria Isabel De La Cruz, one of the vehicle's passengers.

United States Attorney Lam said, "The defendant turned what should have been a simple arrest into an enormous tragedy, and now he will pay the price for his actions."

**DEFENDANT**

CESAR GOMEZ-TABOADA

**SUMMARY OF CHARGE OF CONVICTION**

18 U.S.C. §§ 1324(a)(1)(A(ii), (v)(II), and (a)(1)(B)(iv) (bringing in an illegal alien resulting in death)  
Maximum penalty: life imprisonment; \$250,000 fine

**AGENCIES**

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Human Trafficking Unit  
California Highway Patrol  
United States Border Patrol